

Twentieth Century Santa Claus Has System for Making His Toys

Has String of Factories for
Job Instead of Mrs. Santa
as of Yore.

By MARGARET FRESHLEY.

Not so very long ago the gentleman that lives at the North Pole had an easy time of things, that is, easy compared with conditions as they are now. Mr. Santa Claus, ably assisted by his capable and portly wife (at least gossip has it that she was capable and portly—and we must depend on gossip, for she, unlike her husband, is of a retiring disposition and does not appear in public)—was able, by virtue of his systematic way of going at his business, to get his Christmas toys made and distributed by his trusty fleet-footed reindeer.

The gentleman, we are told, started Dec. 27 each year, having rested on the 25th after his strenuous Christmas rush, to prepare his list for the next Christmas, and then he and Mrs. Santa started immediately to make gifts. Santa took care of the wishes of all the boys and his wife saw that all the girls were well provided for. And everything went along nicely with just the two of them.

20th Century Santa.

But now Santa must forego the pleasure of making wagons and sleds. He has established an office at the north pole where he sits the year round in a big squeaky chair and dictates letters and telegrams to his factories all over America. For things are entirely different now, and Santa finds it necessary to have thousands of helpers where before he only had one.

This means, of course, that he is able to provide many new and different kinds of toys, a fact which all the South Bend stores prove by their displays.

The array is indeed bewildering, and children and grownups alike stand in delighted amazement before an assortment so varied and colorful, so entertaining and instructive that it is almost indescribable.

Animals Galore.

For the wee youngsters, Santa's toy factories have provided almost everything that is squeezable and chewable. There are the woolly animals that can be hugged close and long with out injury, rubber and cloth dolls that are an endless comfort when one must go to bed in the dark and they have the added advantage of being unbreakable.

They do not object to being hauled around by an arm or a leg, and they never mind when an irate owner bangs them over the flanks of a galloping hobby horse. There are sponge dolls, celluloid ducks and fish that take the terror and the squeals out of bath time, and the big, soft, balls that can be thrown at random, without the usual resulting damage.

Numerous beasts of prey with the ability to perform all sorts of amazing and erratic stunts are also appreciated by this part of the "younger set," as are building blocks from which can be constructed marvelous architectural achievements, which the least movement will send crashing to the floor.

Mechanical Toys.

The wee one's older brother has not been slighted. Indeed, he seems to have the better part of the bargain. He it is who can really enjoy the sleds, wagons, skates, mechanical toys, which include automobiles and trains, and other devices with a deafening roar, horns, hoots, and other noise making contraptions.

He likes books, if they are sufficiently exciting, and he will work for hours over some kind of puzzle. Games galore have been invented for his pleasure, and chemical sets, carpenter's tools, and paints give him valuable training while he is not conscious of being taught.

Steel building sets are meant especially for him, although it must be confessed that father is sometimes caught, squatted on the floor, absorbedly "helping" sonny solve some intricate problem of mechanics. Guns, the kind that shoot "B-B's," cranks and "real" honest "gosh bullets" are included in the list that finds especial favor with the boy, and Santa seems to be well versed in the items of this great long list.

Dolls Are Favorites.

As is expected, dolls lead all aspirants for favor in the mind of "sis," and Mrs. Santa Claus still keeps an eye on her husband's business to see that there is no danger of shortage in this line of gifts. And such a variety as she has provided was never seen before: boy dolls and girl dolls, from the beautiful big waxen creatures, to the little black cloth "Topsy's" dolls with real hair of gold or brown or black, and fat "Kewpies" with no hair at all; fashionable lady dolls, little boy and girl dolls, and baby dolls, dolls that walk and talk and cry, dolls whose kid bodies have almost as many joints as their human owners, dolls that talk and cry, and sleep.

Along with the dolls come doll houses as completely furnished as a young mother's heart could desire, and there are beds, cradles, cabs, doll wardrobes, and even tiny cedar chests. There are dishes and tea sets, and cooking utensils.

Toy stoves, even tiny electric stoves, have been manufactured by Mr. Santa who knows that "woman's work is never done" and that it should be lightened as much as possible. To help more, he has contrived tiny electric washers and electric irons, so that Isabella Dorothy Marie's weekly laundry may be washed and ironed efficiently and quickly.

A small graphophone, with special records of Mother Goose and other nursery rhymes, has been made for

the enjoyment of the young lady and her brother, and there are innumerable games that will be enjoyed by both.

Altogether it seems as if Mr. Santa Claus has been out doing himself to provide entertaining and instructive toys for this newer generation, and, due to the help of the American toy manufacturers, he seems to be succeeding pretty well.

Neat Development.

Once Germany made most of our toys, but that time is past, and since American initiative has been put into the making of toys, there has been a great and wide-spread development, plainly seen in the array of toys displayed this year.

Their attractiveness and general utility are so noticeable that not a few "old timers" have expressed the opinion that they "grew up too soon." And when an old-timer will come around to this point of view, one may be sure that toys are reaching the height of achievement.

MERGER PROPOSAL ARGUMENTS CLOSED

Consumer's Attorney Tells
Commission People Do
Not Want Change.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 17.—Hearings on the amended petition of the Indiana Electric Corp. to issue securities for the purchase of electric utilities of the state closed before the public service commission Saturday with arguments of attorneys of the company and cities opposing the consolidation.

John W. McCordie, chairman of the public service commission, said that a decision in the case probably will not be announced for more than a week. He indicated that the commission will give careful consideration to the evidence submitted before issuing an order.

Heated discussions on the merits of the petition marked the arguments which lasted most of the day. The chief point of difference was on the value of the properties and whether the valuations are adequate to warrant the issuing of approximately \$18,000,000 in securities.

William L. Taylor representing Indianapolis electric power consumers made a vigorous attack on the plans of the corporation.

"It is a remarkable thing," declared Mr. Taylor, "that all the cities concerned in this case are against the granting of the petition. The people are against it. They know what they want. The people of Indianapolis, Kokomo, Elkhart and other cities are against it."

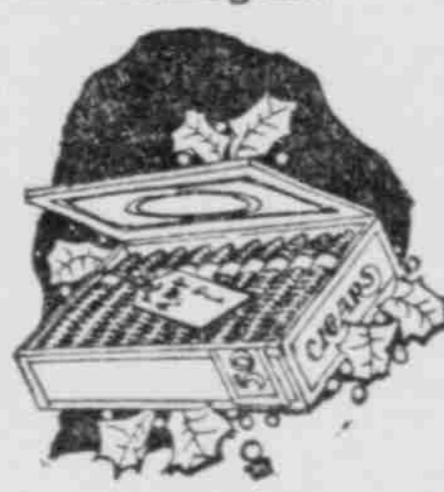
People in the cities concerned in the case, according to Mr. Taylor will be heavily penalized in the event the petition is approved. He stated also that no authority rests with the commission to approve the merger plan.

Attorneys representing the commission asserted that the merger plan

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would result in great benefits in improved electric service to the communities now served by the individual or affiliated companies.

Paul P. Haynes, who conducted the arguments for the company, challenged the opposition to show that the plan will increase electric rates in any city. He pointed out that the company is asking to issue \$18,000,000 less of securities than asked in the first petition, which was denied.

Representatives of the cities of Kokomo and Elkhart made statements to the commission opposing the merger plan.

FIND MAN DEAD AS WIFE SEEKS DECREE

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Dec. 17.—John D. Biggs, 63 years old, who was made defendant in a suit in superior court No. 2 Thursday by his wife, Hester Elizabeth, asking for separate maintenance, shot and instantly killed himself today at the home, two miles north of Pontian, Ind. The body was found by a son Andrew, shortly after the act.

It was said Biggs learned of his wife's suit through reading the newspaper and immediately created a disturbance in the home. Sheriff Wolfe was notified and took the papers to serve. When he arrived the man was dead.

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Watson Now Claims 200 A. E. F. Vets Were Slain by Gallows and Clubs

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Sen. Tom Watson, democrat, Georgia, announced today that he would insert in the record of the next meeting of the senate committee investigating the charges that American soldiers were illegally killed in France a letter charging that over "200 soldiers were illegally hanged or clubbed to death by officers and never reported" in France.

"I will offer this and similar letters by eye witnesses, directly disproving the statement of the war department that only 11 soldiers were hung in France," announced Watson. "I will offer a letter from one man who was an eye witness to four hangings at Givres, where the war department says only one man was hanged."

Sen. Watson produced a letter written by Arthur Q. Burlington, Fulton, Ky., but who said his home was in Detroit, Mich.

"How such an untruth as that only 11 American soldiers were hung in France can be handed out to the American people, I do not know," said Burlington, who then added his charge of "over 200 soldiers being hung or clubbed to death. I am going to tell of what happened before my own eyes."

SLAYING INDICATES PATH OF O'CONNOR

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Posses pressed their hunt for "Terrible Tommy" O'Connor, escaped desperado, through the woods of northern Wisconsin today and efforts were redoubled to identify the man found shot dead and his body hidden under a bridge near Palmyra, Wis.

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ESCAPES IN BOX, IS CAUGHT BY POLICE

BOSTON, Dec. 17.—Harry Berwin, who escaped from the state prison in a packing case was captured in Newton while trying to break into a house.

After Berwin, or a confederate, had placed a change of clothing inside with the underwear which the case was supposed to contain, Berwin slipped in, screwed down the cover and was trundled away when the box was placed on a motor truck. The truck driver crossed the city and arrived at the south freight terminal to find one of the six cases of the prison goods partly empty. In it were a convict's uniform, a screw driver and a pair of pliers.

Berwin had unscrewed the case during the trip across the city, effected a change of clothing under its cover and dropped off the truck. He was serving a seven year sentence for larceny.

LARGEST DISPLAY IN THE WEST
South Bend can well be proud of the distinction enjoyed by Staples Hildebrand and Co. At their plant on Colfax av., is the most comprehensive display of "brick facings" west of New York. In planning your home make it a point to inspect them. Ask especially to see some Cloister Brick. 347-17

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POLICE CLAMP LID ON CHICAGO BOOZE

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Illicit sale of whisky and beer was completely squelched in Chicago today for the first time since the national prohibition law became effective.

Local police and government enforcement agents had clamped the lid down tonight in every safe and saloon. The government agents gave their attention to illicit sale of beer and to closing breweries operating illegally, while the city police mopped up the moonshine whiskey.

NOTICE!
The stockholders of the Farmers Trust Co. will meet in rooms of bank at 1:30 P. M., Saturday, Jan. 14, 1922, for election of officers and directors and any other business that may come before them. Polls open from 9 till 1:30. 352

There's only one Turkish bath in town and it's a good one. Call at the basement of the Farmers' Trust building and steam all sluggishness from your system. So. Bend Baths. 346-17

W. O. W. ATTENTION!
Hard time party Monday night at East Jefferson blvd. hall. Members bring lunch and friends. 352

SEEKS WARRANT FOR ARREST OF ENVOYS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Orbain Ledaux who won publicity as Mr. Zero, the self-appointed shepherd of the unemployed, but who has recently been devoting his attentions to the armament conference, today applied to the local police for a warrant for the arrest of the signers of the four-power Pacific treaty on charges of "trafficking in stolen goods."

Ledaux alleges the treaty calls for "taking of property unlawfully."

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RURAL GAMES IN VOGUE.
CHICAGO.—"Farmer in the Dell," "drop the handkerchief" and "post-office" are still the favorite entertainment in rural districts, according to Edward J. Tobin, superintendent of Cook county schools.

BUY YOUR XMAS CARDS NOW
The Book Shop, 119 N. Michigan st., is urging the purchase of Christmas cards now while stocks are complete. Hundreds of attractive designs in Christmas cards are shown at a wide range of prices. Christmas novelties for table decorations are also featured at the Book Shop. 338-17

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